

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota*

### *Office of the Governor*

**Whereas**, according to the South Dakota Attorney General's missing persons database as of May 2, 2022, of the 102 listed missing South Dakotans, 69 are indigenous persons; and,

**Whereas**, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, homicide is the third leading cause of death among Native American women, who are ten times more likely to face the threat of murder than any other demographic, and according to the National Institute of Justice, more than four in five American Indian and Alaska Native adults (83%) have experienced some form of violence in their lifetime; and,

**Whereas**, South Dakota has been focused on this issue for years, from driving awareness and passing legislation to facilitating statewide engagement with stakeholders to end this crisis and find the missing; and,

**Whereas**, in 2020, federal investigators opened an office in Rapid City established under the Operation Lady Justice Task Force to investigate cold cases of missing and murdered Native Americans in South Dakota; and,

**Whereas**, in 2021, the state Legislature established the Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People; and,

**Whereas**, in 2022, the Governor recommended, and the South Dakota Legislature adopted, ongoing funding for the liaison position within the Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People to support law enforcement and coordinate investigative efforts:

**Now, Therefore, I, Kristi Noem**, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2022, as

## *MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS PERSONS DAY*

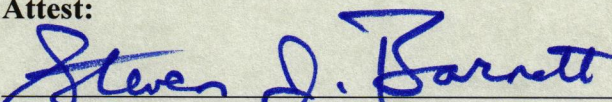
in South Dakota.



*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this fourth day of May in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Two.

  
Kristi Noem, Governor

Attest:

  
Steven J. Barnett, Secretary of State